GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4689
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010
IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTHCARE SERVICES
Dashmunsi Deepa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of improvement in healthcare services in the country as a result of the National Family Health Survey-II and III;

(b) the details of areas especially in the West Bengal where no improvement has been found to be made after these surveys; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to get the desired results in such areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare conducts nation-wide surveys to assess the impact of the health interventions from time to time. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) was conducted during 1992-93(NFHS-1), 1998-99 (NFHS-2) and 2005-06 (NFHS-3) and has captured information on various indicators that have been refined across the surveys. The recent National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) was conducted in the 29 States including West Bengal and collected information on Mortality, Marriage & Fertility, Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Immunization of children, child feeding practices, Nutritional status of children and adult, prevalence of anemia among children and adults, obesity among men & women, Knowledge, attitude and behaviour with regard to HIV/AIDS and its prevalence of Tuberculosis & Malaria. The survey covered ever married and unmarried women in the age group 15-49 years and men in the age group of 15-54 years. The key findings of the survey reveal that institutional delivery and maternity care has improved, unmet need for the family planning has reduced, women are having fewer children, infant mortality has dropped; overall immunization coverage of children has improved and knowledge about HIV/AIDS has improved in the seven-year period since the last NFHS survey (1998-99). The findings of District Level Household Survey conducted in 2007-08 also reveal further improvement in institutional delivery, child immunisation and current usage of method of contraceptive use etc .

(c): The Government of India has taken various steps to address the gaps in the health sector by framing appropriate programmes for improving maternal and child health care. Government implemented the Reproductive and Child Health programme, which is in its second phase (2005-10). This programme was integrated under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in April 2005 which also covers key Disease Control Programmes like Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme etc. The National Rural Health Mission seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the population. It also seeks to reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio, Infant Mortality Rate and the Total Fertility Rate by the end of Mission period in 2012.The Mission seeks to provide accountable, effective, reliable and quality primary health care through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), strengthening of Public Health Delivery System at all levels, improved hospital care, provision of untied funds to all the facilities to enable local action, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. Flexibility has been given to the States to devise need based Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). The Government in 2009 identified 235 districts in the country for focussed planning including Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Bankura, Purulia and Birbhum districts of West Bengal.